

### From IEMA Acting Director Joseph G. Klinger

The end of the year provides an opportunity to reflect on events from the preceding 12 months. As this year comes to a close, I'd like to highlight a few of the many accomplishments and challenges IEMA experienced in 2017.

The year started with the launch of an exciting statewide initiative to help Illinois school districts screen school buildings for radon. The initiative provides a low-cost way for districts to test schools for radon gas, which is the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers.

Access to earthquake home mitigation information in Southern Illinois was increased with the placement of an interactive kiosk at a mall in Carbondale. The kiosk includes earthquake hazards information, safety tips and more than 80 how-to videos on ways to secure household items.

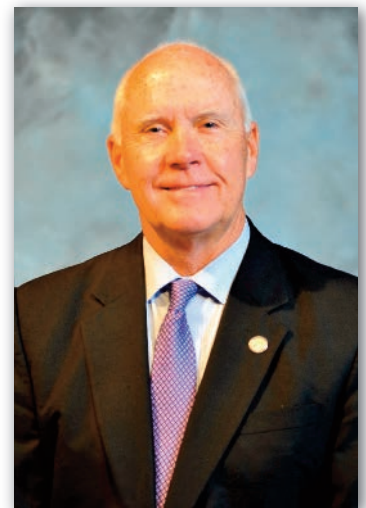
To me, it seems we experience more disasters in odd-number years, and 2017 certainly lived up to that expectation. IEMA coordinated state support for several disasters this year, including tornadoes in late February, flash and river flooding in Southern Illinois in early May, and additional flash and river flooding in Northern Illinois in July.

IEMA also coordinated fulfillment of a request by Puerto Rico through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact that resulted in the deployment of more than 150 Illinois National Guard troops to assist the hurricane-ravaged territory.

Nearly a year of planning, meetings and exercises with dozens of agencies and organizations resulted in a safe and memorable experience for thousands of people who flocked to Southern Illinois to witness the solar eclipse on Aug. 21.

Supporting our local partners is an important mission for IEMA. In 2017, we were pleased to launch a joint purchasing effort to help municipal and county agencies save time and money when purchasing commodities, services and equipment needed for response and recovery efforts. In addition, we awarded a total of \$500,000 in grants to 32 emergency management agencies to enhance their emergency operations centers.

On behalf of the staff at IEMA, we wish you and yours a very happy New Year and we look forward to working with you in 2018.



**Acting Director  
Joseph G. Klinger**

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# State Opts into FirstNet Communications Network

A four-and-a-half-year process to capture critical input on what emergency responders will require in a broadband network culminated in Governor Bruce Rauner's announcement on Dec. 18 that Illinois is opting into the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) dedicated network.

The partnership will ensure the life-saving advantages of enhanced wireless broadband technology are available to public safety personnel statewide. The network is being built, operated and maintained at no cost to participating states through a public-private partnership between FirstNet and AT&T. Users of the network will pay a monthly fee as they currently do for cellular phones. Illinois is the 39th state opting into the network.

Joe Galvin, IEMA's statewide interoperability coordinator, led the state's effort to ensure the FirstNet broadband network offering to Illinois met the needs of emergency responders across the state. The effort included more than 225 meetings with a 100-member multi-discipline, multi-jurisdictional stakeholders group.

The network will ensure public safety officials have the ability to make cellular phone calls, access critical information and transmit video during daily operations



**IEMA Statewide Interoperability Coordinator Joe Galvin (third from left), Acting Director Joe Klinger (fourth from right) and FirstNet Grant Program Manager Bob Evans (right) joined Gov. Rauner and other officials for the FirstNet opt-in announcement.**

and during all types of emergencies by providing prioritized network access.

FirstNet is an independent authority established within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. It grew from a 9/11 Commission finding that overloaded communication lines significantly hindered effective response and resulted in many first responder fatalities.

## 2018 Monthly Preparedness Topics

January – Resolve to Be Ready  
February – Earthquake Preparedness  
March – Severe Weather Preparedness  
April – Volunteers in Preparedness and Response  
May – Functional and Access Needs Preparedness  
June – Summer Safety  
July – Radiation Safety and Preparedness  
August – School and Campus Safety  
September – National Preparedness Month  
October – National Cyber Security Awareness Month  
November – Winter Weather Preparedness  
December – Holiday Safety



# NWS Consolidates, Reformats Winter Weather Products

While it's likely the 2017-18 winter season will bring snow, freezing rain and perhaps even a blizzard, the watches, warnings and advisories issued for these weather events by the National Weather Service (NWS) will have a new look.

Following a hazard simplification project that included input from NWS partners and the public, the NWS reduced the types of watches, warnings and advisories issued for certain hazard types and simplified the format of those products.

According to the NWS, the revisions were based on input from focus groups, surveys and the 2015 Hazard Simplification Workshop. Participants included the public, broadcasters, emergency managers and other members of the Weather, Water and Climate Enterprise.

Example of Old Format:	Example of New Format:
<p>...WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY IN EFFECT FROM 6 PM THIS EVENING TO NOON CST MONDAY...</p> <p>The National Weather Service in Lincoln has issued a Winter Weather Advisory for snow, which is in effect from 6 PM this evening to 6 PM CST Monday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>TIMING</b>...Snow will develop west of the Illinois River this evening. The snow will be heaviest late tonight into Monday morning. Snowfall amounts of 3 to 4 inches are expected.</li><li>• <b>MAIN IMPACT</b>...Expect snow-covered and slick roads for the Monday morning commute. Motorists are advised to drive with caution, and plan on extra time to arrive at their destinations Monday morning.</li></ul>	<p>...WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY IN EFFECT FROM 6 PM THIS EVENING TO NOON CST MONDAY...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>WHAT</b>...Snow expected. Snow accumulations of 3 to 4 inches.</li><li>• <b>WHERE</b>...Areas west of the Illinois River, including Fulton, Knox, Marshall, Peoria, and Stark counties.</li><li>• <b>WHEN</b>...Tonight into Monday morning.</li><li>• <b>ADDITIONAL DETAILS</b>...Expect snow-covered and slick roads for the Monday morning commute.</li></ul>

How these messages are communicated to the public also has changed to focus on what, where, when, additional details, and precautionary/preparedness actions.

See charts below for more details on the product consolidation and examples of the old and new product formats.

The NWS plans to announce changes to flood messages later this winter.



## Radiological Transport Security Focus of 2018 Exercise

Planning is underway for a radiological transportation security tabletop exercise sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Directorate.

The Isotope Crossroads tabletop exercise is intended to promote information sharing, joint situational awareness, team building and problem solving in a response situation with federal, state and local law enforcement, as well as emergency response personnel and transportation companies dealing with a WMD incident involving Category 1 and/or 2 radiological materials in transit.

Kelly Horn of IEMA's Bureau of Radiation Safety recently attended a planning meeting for the exercise,

during which the training, scenario development, objectives, responsibilities and timeline were discussed. Other participants in the meeting included the FBI, NNSA, Chicago Fire Department, Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications, Chicago Department of Public Health, Illinois State Police/Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region III, DOE Radiological Assistance Program and the Illinois National Guard's 5th Civil Support Team.

The one-day tabletop exercise will be a non-evaluated, inject-driven, no-fault exercise designed to examine and exercise everything up to the point of source detonation. The date has not yet been set, but is expected to be in spring 2018.



## FEMA Earthquake Planner Completes Mission at IEMA

Significant progress was made in the state's planning for a catastrophic earthquake over the past year thanks to the efforts of Jim Calder, a contractual planner assigned to IEMA's strategic planning cell by FEMA in October 2016. The assignment, which ended in November 2017, was part of an effort to enhance federal and state response and recovery actions in eight central U.S. states that would be impacted by a major earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone (NMSZ).

Calder's primary objective at IEMA was to coordinate development of FEMA Region V's catastrophic earthquake plan with Illinois. He worked closely with staff from IEMA and other state agencies with a role in state response and recovery. He also assisted the strategic planning cell with workshops, course of action development seminars and training courses.

During his time at IEMA, Calder had the opportunity to observe the State Emergency Operations Center during exercises and activations for emergencies, which provided a better understanding of Illinois' capabilities.



**Acting Director Klinger presents a certificate of appreciation to earthquake planner James Calder in recognition of his contributions to the state's planning efforts.**

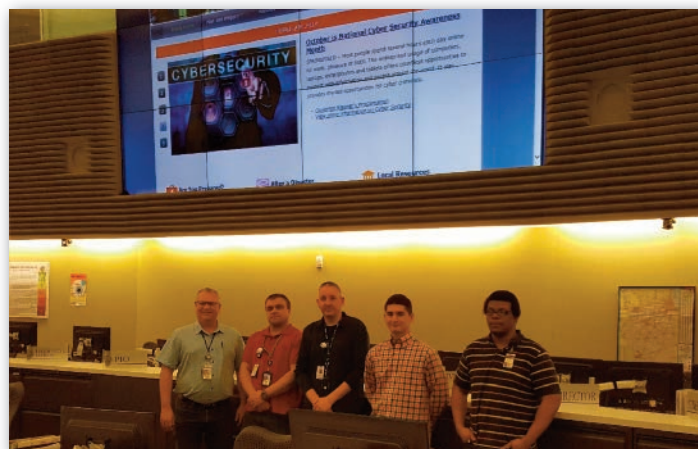
Calder retired from the U.S. Army as a Lieutenant Colonel and spent many years after retirement working in planning and training. During his tenure with IEMA, Calder was named senior planner for the NMSZ project by FEMA and began coordinating the planning efforts for the state of Indiana.

## Video Wall in State Emergency Operations Center Upgraded

The video walls in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) recently were upgraded with LED display screens that provide better resolution. Faulty display cubes also were replaced. This technology change makes the video walls current with state-of-the-art display and able to support future enhancements.

In addition, as part of an agency-wide hardware refresh, all of the PCs in the SEOC were upgraded with smaller form factor desktops powered by Windows 10, the latest operating system.

The SEOC is the nerve center for coordination of the state's support to communities affected by disasters. When activated, the center can accommodate up to 72 liaisons from various state and federal agencies, mutual aid organizations and non-governmental organizations. During activations, the video screens are used to post incident-critical information, news and weather reports, videos from disaster areas and more as situational awareness for the SEOC liaisons.



**Staff from the Department of Innovation and Technology upgraded the PCs in the SEOC.**

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# Use Caution When Shoveling, Blowing Snow this Winter

Winter is here, and with it comes winter weather. Snow and ice bring a whole list of hazards for which to prepare. But one that is often underestimated is the risk of injury and death while shoveling.

Picking up a shovel and moving hundreds of pounds of snow puts a lot of strain on the body, especially for individuals who are less active. Pushing a heavy snow blower can also cause injury. Cold weather stresses your heart and circulatory system. It can make blood clot more easily and constrict arteries, which decreases blood supply. When combined, all of these factors increase the chances of heart attack.

Use the following tips to shovel safely:

- Start slow and take time to stretch before you begin
- Stay hydrated
- Push the snow rather than lift it
- If you do lift it, shovel many light loads instead of a few heavy ones
- Remember to lift with your legs, not your back
- Avoid working to the point of exhaustion and take frequent breaks
- Stop right away if you feel tightness in your chest, you feel dizzy or short of breath, your heart starts racing, or some other physical change makes you nervous

- If you think you are having a heart attack, call 911

If you use a snow blower, follow the manufacturer's instructions for operation and maintenance. Keep your limbs away from moving parts, and be mindful of the carbon monoxide risk of running a gas-powered snow blower in an enclosed space such as a garage. Remember, a clean driveway is not worth your life.

*(Information for this article was obtained from the National Safety Council and Harvard Health Blog websites.)*



IEMA Acting Director Joe Klinger (far left) joined Gov. Rauner (center) and Major General Richard Hayes (right, at bottom of stairs) to welcome home more than 150 members of the Illinois Army National Guard as they returned from a four-week deployment in Puerto Rico on Dec. 2. The soldiers provided security details during relief and recovery efforts on the island territory, which was devastated by Hurricane Maria.

IEMA coordinated the assistance effort through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, the nation's state-to-state mutual aid system. Puerto Rico requested the assistance and agreed to reimburse the state for the estimated \$948,000 cost of the deployment.

**Previous issues of Inside IEMA are available at:**  
**<http://www.illinois.gov/iema/Info/Pages/Newsletters.aspx>.**



**State of Illinois**  
Illinois Emergency Management Agency

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